

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US BICENTENNIAL IN GERMANY: UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY
- UNEXPECTED DANGER

1. AT A TIME WHEN THE POSITION OF THE FRG AS ONE OF THE
USG'S PRIMARY ALLIES AND PARTNERS HAS BEEN GIVEN RENEWED
EMPHASIS, A PHENOMENON IS DEVELOPING WHICH WHILE HIGHLY
WELCOME PRESENTS US IN WASHINGTON AND IN THE FIELD WITH A
MASSIVE CHALLENGE. IN AN OUTBURST OF FRIENDLY FEELING
TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES, AN UNPRECEDENTED ARRAY OF
EVENTS CELEBRATING OUR BICENTENNIAL IS PLANNED TO TAKE
PLACE ALL OVER THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THIS SITUATION
OFFERS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE OUR OBJECTIVES
WHILE CONSOLIDATING THE US-FRG RELATIONSHIP. IT ALSO
CREATES THE DANGER THAT IF THE RESPONSE FROM THE
AMERICAN SIDE IS INSUFFICIENT, GERMANS NOT ONLY WILL BE
DISAPPOINTED BUT PROBABLY DRAW NEGATIVE CONCLUSIONS. IT
OFFERS OCCASION TO HELP BRIDGE THE GENERATION GAP TO
REACH YOUNGER AUDIENCES AND POTENTIAL LEADERS WHOSE VIEW
OF THE US MAY BE AT VARIANCE FROM THOSE PRESENTLY IN
POWER.

2. THIS MISSION HAS REGISTERED CONTINUING UPSURGE IN
NUMBER OF GERMAN INITIATED BICENTENNIAL PROJECTS GOING
FAR BEYOND ORIGINAL ANTICIPATION. MAJORITY OF THEM ARE
SELF-STARTING AND SELF-FUNDED ORIGINATING WITH LAENDER,
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MOST MAJOR CITIES, TOWNS, CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, UNI-

VERSITIES, SCHOOLS AND GERMAN-AMERICAN GROUPS. EVENTS NOW PLANNED ARE ESTIMATED TO BE OVER 3,000. NUMBER MAY GROW IN AUTUMN AS OTHER INSTITUTIONS, ORGANIZATIONS MAKE FINAL PLANS. IN ADDITION TO THIS DEVELOPMENT IN THE NON-FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR, THE FRG'S OWN PLANS ARE VERY AMBITIOUS WITH \$3,500,000 APPROPRIATED SO FAR FOR BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES. WE BELIEVE MUCH OF GERMAN INITIATIVE IS INSPIRED BY DESIRE TO MAKE A GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARD AND CONFIDENCE IN THE US AFTER TURBULENCE OF SIXTIES, INDO-CHINA, ETC. THIS CIRCUMSTANCE GIVES US EXTRAORDINARY POSSIBILITY TO STRENGTHEN US-FRG RELATIONS, PRESENT AMERICAN POLICIES AND SOCIETY IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND AFFORDS CHANCE TO REACH THOSE GROUPS, PARTICULARLY YOUNGER ONES, WHICH HAVE QUESTIONED AMERICAN SOCIETY AND FOREIGN POLICY IN RECENT YEARS.

3. WHILE MOST GERMAN PROJECTS WILL BE SELF-FINANCED, MANY REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF AMERICAN SUPPORT OR COORDINATION TO SUCCEED, TO A DEGREE ALREADY BEYOND PRESENT USIS/G CAPABILITY. A MISSION BICENTENNIAL WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY THE DCM IS BEING ORGANIZED TO COORDINATE SUPPORT AND HELP ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL WITHIN-COUNTRY RESOURCES. THE POST HAS SET UP THE BICENTENNIAL AS A CO-OBJECTIVE (NO. II FOR THE 76 CPP) AND IS GEARING UP. A MASTER SCHEDULE OF BICENTENNIAL EVENTS IN GERMANY IS BEING DEVELOPED IDENTIFYING RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND ADDITIONALLY REQUIRED. POST FULLY RECOGNIZES NEED FOR TACTFUL SELECTIVITY IN SUPPORTING MOST WORTHWHILE PROJECTS AND NEED TO CHANNEL OTHERS TOWARD MOST PRODUCTIVE RESULTS. PROBLEM HERE MAY PROVE TO BE ONE OF BEING CONFRONTED IN MANY INSTANCES WITH AN OVER-ABUNDANCE OF GOODWILL, BUT NOT THE MOST PRODUCTIVE PROPOSALS. BALANCE BETWEEN TACT AND SELECTIVITY WILL BE NEEDED. HOWEVER, THE AGENCY AND THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE NOW OF THE DIMENSIONS OF WHAT IS INVOLVED AND THAT THIS WILL NEED SPECIAL ATTENTION, INCLUDING AT HIGHEST LEVELS. NOT TO REACT ENERGETICALLY AND POSITIVELY TO THIS OPPORTUNITY SO FAVORABLE TO ADVANCEMENT OF US NATIONAL OBJECTIVES FOR GERMANY WOULD MAKE US APPEAR UNRESPONSIVE TO THIS SPONTANEOUS AND SINGULAR GESTURE TOWARDS OUR COUNTRY.

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